been strengthened to check infiltration of militants and smuggling of arms and explosives from across the border.

[English]

Purchase of Pistols

2632. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Har sal ek arab ki pistol kharidi gaye" appearing in the Hindustan, dated November 26, 1996;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the details therof; and

(e) the steps taken to curtail such misappropriations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) As per existing provisions of Arms Act, 1959 and Arm Rules, 1962, the dealership licences to deal with sale/purchase of firearms and ammunition are granted by State Licensing Authorities under delegated powers. The existing provisions make it mandatory on the part of every dealer to maintain prescribed registers to show receipts, disposals, balance fo stock in hand, daily sales of various categories of arms and ammunition. Prescribed Field/Police Authorities are empowered to examine the stocks and accounts of receipts and disposals of arms and ammunition or any other register/document maintained by dealers. Sale/transfer of any firearm not bearing maker's name, manufacturer's number or other identification mark stamped/shown thereon in approved manner is prohibited. Sufficient powers have been delegated under the said Act/Rules to State Authorities to check/prevent any infringement of the prescribed provisions/procedures and to ensure that no irregularity in the trade of arms and ammunition takes place.

Decanalisation of Sugar Export

2633. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the views of the Ministry have been opposed by the Ministry of Law in regard to the decanalisation of the sugar export:

(b) if so, the main objections raised by the Law Ministry; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Custodial Deaths

2634. LT. GEN. PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI :
SHRI CHANDRABHUSHAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of custodial deaths reported during 1995-96 till date, state-wise;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such deaths;

(c) the number of representations received regarding the custodial deaths by the National Human Rights Commission during 1995-96 till date;

(d) whether any recommendations on the custodial deaths in jails have been made by the NHRC; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) A statement on the deaths in police custody is enclosed.

(b) Although 'Police' is a State subject, the Government of India have issued guidelines to the State Governments, from time to time, to ensure that police behave in a humane manner and that cases of alleged custodial deaths and police excesses are enquried into and deal with firmly, wherever they occur, Special emphasis is being laid on human rights in the training curricula of police personnel at all levels. 'Induction' and 'in-service' training programmes also include special inputs to sensitise police personnel about the use of scientific methods for investigation.

(c) to (e) According to information available, the National Human Rights Commission does not maintain separate figures of representations received regarding custodial deaths. In order to address the issue of custodial deaths, including those in jails, the Commission has, inter-alia, recommended that the Government should accede to the 1984 Convention against Torture and Other Forms of Crime, In human and Degarading Treatment or Punishment and that certain suggestions of the Law Commission/Supreme Court with regard to custodial deaths be acted upon. In some cases, the Commission has also held the view that payment of compensation to the victims of custodial deaths be the liability of not just the State Government, but of the offending police officials themselves.